



**November 2015 Coordinated Election
Candidate Survey Voter Guide**

Citizens Project

Widefield District 3

Candidates are listed in the order they appear on the official ballot.

All responses are presented as received from the candidates, without editing for grammar, punctuation, or spelling and were truncated if they exceeded the specified word limit.



JIM BOUDREAU

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Occupation: Financial Advisor

<p>Why are you running for school board and what are your qualifications?</p>	<p>I have the time and talent to make a difference and give back to our community. My experience as a financial advisor and various other board positions including an elected position at Security Fire Protection District has prepared me to make informed decisions.</p>
<p>What are the most pressing issues the district should address this year?</p>	<p>The entire education process continues to evolve and because of budgetary constraints, everyone is asked to do more with less. The most important issue is student achievement. Tough decisions have to be made with budgeting and that is the primary focus. Policies and procedures also continue to evolve and as a board, sound reasoning has to prevail.</p>
<p>Explain your philosophy regarding charter schools and voucher programs. How would you decide whether to reject or accept an application for a new charter school in your district? Do you favor a limit on the number of charter schools?</p>	<p>Giving family a choice in where and how their children are educated is important to me. Charter schools offer something different. The idea on limits of the number of charter schools is a complex issue that needs more facts before I would be in favor of or oppose.</p>
<p>Are schools adequately funded? Why or why not?</p>	<p>Schools and education is absolutely underfunded and that is not likely to change. The first issue that comes to mind is class size. It's not the only answer but it does make a difference. Quality educators come at a price too. Attracting and retaining people in education continues to get harder because of demands on education. Everything from the arts to music as well as alternative options for students not going on to college (vocational training programs) continue to have challenges with funding.</p>
<p>What should the budget priorities be?</p>	<p>The entire budget is driven solely by student achievement. Whether it's curriculum, standardized testing, staffing, buildings, extra curricular activities, it all directly or indirectly leads back to student achievement.</p>
<p>How is your district ensuring a religiously neutral academic environment that honors all students? Specifically, how do current district level policies treat student prayer, teaching of creationism, and holiday celebrations, and do they reflect the most recent court rulings?</p>	<p>Our district is in compliance with court rulings. Students and staff have the ability to practice religion but it is not taught and part of curriculum.</p>
<p>How should the district comply with the statutory requirements districts to include LGBT students in their anti-bullying policies?</p>	<p>Although I have not studied the district guidelines, I am quite sure our district has in place appropriate policies to address both of these issues. Discrimination in any form should not be tolerated.</p>
<p>How should the school district implement the age-appropriate, medically accurate, science-based sex education standards required by law?</p>	<p>This is another district policy that I'm quite sure has been and is being addressed that meets the standards required by law.</p>
<p>What role do you believe the arts should play in public education?</p>	<p>Arts is an important part of personal and character development. Although I would love to see the education system offer so much more than it currently does, budgetary constraints limit how much can be done.</p>



November 2015 Coordinated Election

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Citizens Project

Fountain-Ft. Carson District 8

Candidates from all races were invited to participate.

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TERESA WRIGHT

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Education: AS in Nursing, Pikes Peak Community College

Occupation: Nurse

<p>Why are you running for school board and what are your qualifications?</p>	<p>Believe in the value and potential of public education. Dedicated to serving district to uphold the excellence of educational welfare for all students. Collaborative relationship with D8 admin/staff for 17 years as parent and special education advocate. Multiple experiences serving on committees within the school district and the community.</p>
<p>What are the most pressing issues the district should address this year?</p>	<p>Evaluation of current curriculum for high academic standards balanced with evidence-based quality instruction that engages the students to learn in a meaningful and productive manner. Support, strengthen and challenge the students “in the middle who fall through the cracks” and have unique styles of learning by delivering exceptional teaching techniques so that the students will not only succeed, but also reach their maximum potential. Strengthen and expand the Gifted and Talented program. Expand vocational training within the high school curriculum. Address the over-crowding issues at Fountain Middle School. Maintain the current high expectations and inclusion for Special Education.</p>
<p>Explain your philosophy regarding charter schools and voucher programs. How would you decide whether to reject or accept an application for a new charter school in your district? Do you favor a limit on the number of charter schools?</p>	<p>Ideally, school districts should provide innovative education in a manner that meets the needs of all students. However, I support avenues that diversify strategies of educating children while maintaining high standards for performance. I do not support voucher programs. Applications should be carefully and consistently evaluated.</p>
<p>Are schools adequately funded? Why or why not?</p>	<p>I believe our district’s board has worked hard to maintain a balanced and fiscally responsible budget. I will work to ensure that these standards continue to be upheld. However, at a state and national level, we should place a higher value and priority on obtaining and retaining quality instructional staff that are impacting and teaching our future society.</p>
<p>What should the budget priorities be?</p>	<p>Review of current curriculum standards that may or may not lead to changes in instructional strategies that will improve student achievement. Explore and evaluate the re-introduction of Vocational Training within the high school setting. Monitoring current school buildings for adequate space and environments where children can learn effectively.</p>
<p>How is your district ensuring a religiously neutral academic environment that honors all students? Specifically, how do current district level policies treat student prayer, teaching of creationism, and holiday celebrations, and do they reflect the most recent court rulings?</p>	<p>Colorado schools follow Federal laws in regards to religious accommodations for students. Students have the right and privilege to practice their beliefs so long as there is no interference with education time. Holidays are addressed from a secular standpoint without specific references to a specific religion.</p>
<p>How should the district comply with the statutory requirements districts to include LGBT students in their anti-bullying policies?</p>	<p>D8 treats all students equally regardless of race, gender, religion, economic status, or any other status. Children are defined by their individuality, not because of a group. The teaching and learning environment should be free from distraction, therefore there is a zero tolerance policy for bullying of any kind.</p>
<p>How should the school district implement the age-appropriate, medically accurate, science-based sex education standards required by law?</p>	<p>Parents are informed prior to education and given the choice to opt their child out. Parents should be encouraged to decide when their child is ready for sex education and ideally openly discuss this prior to formal education. Sex education should remain neutral and scientifically based in the school setting.</p>
<p>What role do you believe the arts should play in public education?</p>	<p>I believe the arts enhance creativity and individuality in our children. A balanced, well- rounded educational system fosters students to discover interests that could potentially lead to their future</p>



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Citizens Project

Lewis Palmer District 38

Candidates from all races were invited to participate.

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DALE BASTIN

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Education: Masters' in Agricultural Economics

<p>Why are you running for school board and what are your qualifications?</p>	<p>Foundational education is essential for preparing our children to become productive citizens and we must be involved in the education system. I've been a community college and adult education instructor. I witnessed education systems in Germany, Belgium, Canada, Arizona and Texas benchmarking those institutions' practices to enhance our district's schools.</p>
<p>What are the most pressing issues the district should address this year?</p>	<p>Implementing Common Core Academic Standards and linking teacher evaluations to students' test scores. A majority of parents believe there is too much emphasis on standardized testing. Although a system to evaluate/reward teachers is necessary, you don't want teachers using Common Core solely as their teaching guide. We must recruit/retain top talent and maintain low student/teacher ratios. I support policies enabling educators to capture students' imaginations, inspiring them to acquire new skills. We need programming diversity to meet tomorrow's challenges. I will ensure schools focus on global education, as the world is interconnected, and our children are prepared for global challenges.</p>
<p>Explain your philosophy regarding charter schools and voucher programs. How would you decide whether to reject or accept an application for a new charter school in your district? Do you favor a limit on the number of charter schools?</p>	<p>Some believe these programs detract from public institutions. If public institutions are properly administered and public support is nurtured then there is no detraction to public education by voucher/charter school programs. I support parents' right to seek the highest education standard. Studies where vouchers are authorized, the results are positive.</p>
<p>Are schools adequately funded? Why or why not?</p>	<p>As with all public institutions there is never enough funding for desired programs. School budgets have seen sharp reductions and require enhanced funding support. Colorado ranks 31st for teacher salaries and 34th in state revenue for education, we can do better. I support financial goals of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A Comprehensive Annual Financial Report measuring implementation of highest quality financial standards - Ensure district maintains budgeting practices based on priorities with full transparency - Conduct review of facilities ensuring effective use of buildings and responsible planning for future growth - Engage local and state representatives in dialogues that promote student-centered district vision
<p>What should the budget priorities be?</p>	<p>Recruiting, hiring and retaining the best teachers, administrators and support personnel. This means competitive salaries. We must continually seek new teaching technology. Technology ushers in changes that support teaching and learning; infuses classrooms with digital learning tools, expands course offerings, experiences, and learning materials; increases student engagement/motivation and accelerates learning.</p>
<p>How is your district ensuring a religiously neutral academic environment that honors all students? Specifically, how do current district level policies treat student prayer, teaching of creationism, and holiday celebrations, and do they reflect the most recent court rulings?</p>	<p><i>Left blank.</i></p>
<p>How should the district comply with the statutory requirements districts to include LGBT students in their anti-bullying policies?</p>	<p>This is an academic environment and for all students to excel they must be free from the fear of bullies. No student should suffer the effects of bullying. Administrators and teachers much clearly communicate that there is a zero tolerance policy for bullies. Any incident will be immediately addressed.</p>
<p>How should the school district implement the age-appropriate, medically accurate, science-based sex education standards required by law?</p>	<p>District-38 policy is to teach family life/sex education in regular courses on anatomy, physiology, health, and science. Exemptions will be granted from a specific portion of the family life/sex education curriculum upon request of the student's parent/guardian. The teacher will develop alternative activities for the student to receive credit.</p>
<p>What role do you believe the arts should play in public education?</p>	<p>We need a global education focus which must include the arts with emphasis on language arts. The arts are building blocks of societies and provide universal understanding and communication across cultural boundaries. Quoting Karen Kain, "The importance of the arts to the societies in which they thrive is well documented."</p>